



Legislative Bulletin.....November 7, 2005

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$130 million over 5 years

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 1

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Con.Res. 260 Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, Nostra Aetate, and the continuing need for mutual interreligious respect and dialogue as introduced (Holt)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 7, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 260 resolves That Congress:

- recognizes the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate*; recognizes and appreciates the religious diversity of the United States and the world; encourages the United States to serve in a role of leadership in combating anti-Semitism in all its ugly forms and ending religious intolerance and religious discrimination worldwide; acknowledges and supports the new relationship of collaboration and dialogue that has grown between Jews and Roman Catholics worldwide; and
- requests the President
 - to issue a proclamation recognizing the 40th anniversary of the *Nostra Aetate* and urging the people of the United States to observe the anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and
 - to exert the leadership of the United States to work toward ensuring that anti-Semitism and all forms of religious hatred and racial bigotry are not tolerated worldwide.

Additional Information: According to the resolution, 2005 marks the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of the Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate* (“*In Our Time*”). *Nostra Aetate* states that what happened in the passion of Christ “cannot be charged against all the Jews, without distinction, then alive, nor against the Jews of today. . . . Furthermore, in her rejection of every persecution against any man, the Church, mindful of the patrimony she shares with the Jews and moved not by political reasons but by the Gospel’s spiritual love, decries hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone. Besides, as the Church has always held and holds now, Christ underwent His passion and death freely, because of the sins of men and out of infinite love, in order that all may reach salvation.” H.Con.Res. 260 states that the *Nostra Aetate* “made possible a new relationship between Catholics and Jews worldwide and opened a historic chapter in Jewish-Christian relations that is unprecedented in its closeness and warmth.”

Nostra Aetate also affirms the need for respect among all religious peoples, including Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims, and exhorts Catholics “through dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions, carried out with prudence and love and in witness to the Christian faith and life, they recognize, preserve and promote the good things, spiritual and moral, as well as the socio-cultural values found among these men.” The document says that the Catholic Church “regards with sincere reverence those ways of conduct and of life, those precepts and teachings which, though differing in many aspects from the ones she holds and sets forth, nonetheless often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men.” (Source: http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_en.html)

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on October 6, 2005, and referred to the Committee on International Relations, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.R. 1973 — Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (*Blumenauer*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on November 7, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1973 would authorize the President to furnish foreign development assistance to provide safe water and sanitation to people in developing countries, including the promotion of “good health, economic development, poverty reduction, women’s empowerment, conflict prevention, and environmental sustainability.” It would also “support the design, construction ... and operation of water delivery and sanitation systems.” The bill would require that the Secretary of State develop a strategy for providing this assistance and make annual reports on the implementation of that strategy. The bill also includes the following sense of Congress:

- 1) “in order to make the most effective use of amounts of Official Development Assistance for water and sanitation and avoid waste and duplication, the United States should seek to establish innovative international coordination mechanisms based on best practices in other development sectors; and
- 2) “the United States should greatly increase the amount of Official Development Assistance made available to carry out section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 5(a) of this Act.”

Committee Action: H.R. 1973 was introduced on April 28, 2005, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. The bill was considered and a mark-up session was held on September 15, 2005, and it was reported to the House by a voice vote (H. Rept. [109-260](#)).

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that “implementing H.R. 1973 would cost about \$3 million in 2006 and \$130 million over the 2006-2010 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.”

CBO states: “Under current law, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) already provides assistance to developing countries for the provision of safe water and sanitation. In 2005, USAID expects to obligate about \$540 million on water projects around the world with about \$150 million of that amount for drinking water and sanitation projects

world wide--\$12 million for Sub-Saharan Africa, \$37 million for Asia, and \$25 million for Latin America. While USAID already provides substantial amounts of assistance for water programs in developing countries, a large part of that assistance goes to Jordan, Egypt, and the West Bank or Gaza.”

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee Report, H. Rept. 109-260 cites constitutional authority for this legislation in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution (all laws and proper).

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H.Con.Res. 273 — Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott— *as introduced* (Rogers of AL)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 17, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 273 resolves that Congress:

- “recognizes and honors the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott; and
- “recognizes the historical significance of the Montgomery bus boycott to the United States.”

The resolution list a number of findings, outlining the history of the bus boycott. On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, was arrested for refusing to obey a bus driver’s order to give up her seat on a city bus for a White passenger boarding the bus, as required by city ordinance. Outrage over her arrest eventually led to the announcement of a large-scale boycott against Montgomery city bus lines. The Montgomery bus boycott ended after the United States Supreme Court, on November 13, 1956, upheld a Federal district court ruling declaring segregation on buses unconstitutional.

Committee Action: On October 25, 2005, the resolution was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.Res. 444 — Gynecological Resolution for Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Education — *as introduced* (Hall)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 17, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 444 states that the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, and expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “awareness and early recognition of ovarian cancer symptoms are currently the best way to save women’s lives; and
- “ovarian cancer research should be well-funded so that a reliable screening test can be developed and a cure can be found.”

Additional Information: President George W. Bush has proclaimed September 2005 as “National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.” According to the resolution, ovarian cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death among women living in the United States and is very treatable when detected early, but the vast majority of cases are not diagnosed until the cancer has spread beyond the ovaries. Additionally, only 19 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the United States are diagnosed in the early stages, and in cases where ovarian cancer is detected before it has spread beyond the ovaries, more than 94 percent of women will survive longer than five years.

For more information regarding ovarian cancer, please visit: <http://www.ovarian.org/>. To view the President’s executive order declaring National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month 2005, please visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/08/20050829-6.html>.

Committee Action: On September 15, 2005, the resolution was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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